

[illegible]

WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.

For pleasure or pain, or for weal or for woe,
The law of our being—we reap what we sow.
We may try to evade them, may do what we will;
But our acts, like our shadows, will follow us still.

The world is a wonderful chemist, be sure,
And detects in a moment the base or the pure.
We may boast of our claims to genius or worth,
But the world takes a man for just what he is worth.

We start in the race for fortune or fame;
And then, when we fail, the world bears the blame.
But nine times in ten, 'tis plain to be seen,
There's a "screw somewhere loose" in the human machine.

Are you weary? and worn in this hard earthly strife?
Do you yearn for affection to sweeten your life?
Remember this truth has been oftentimes proved—
We must make ourselves lovable, would we be loved.

Though life may appear as a desolate track,
Yet the bread that we cast on the waters comes back.
This law was enacted by Heaven above—
That "like begets like, and love begets love."

We are proud of our mansions of mortar and stone,
In our gardens are flowers from every zone;
But the beautiful oracles that blossom within,
Grow shriveled and die 'neath the upas of sin.

We make ourselves heroes and martyrs for gold,
Till health becomes broken, and youth becomes old.
Ah! did we the same for a beautiful love,
Our lives might be made for music for angels above.

We reap what we sow. O wonderful truth!
A truth hard to learn in the days of our youth,
But it shines out at last as the "hand on the wall,"
For the word has its debt, and its credit for all.

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